

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
2000 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Womack:

As you prepare the FY2022 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill, we urge you to allocate funds to the Civil Rights Cold Case Record Collections and the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

In January 2019, the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 became law (PL 115-426). This law mandates public disclosure for unsolved Civil Rights Cold Cases by granting members of the Review Board the authority to obtain access to Civil Rights Cold Case Records. Upon review of these cases, the Board is mandated to determine which records should be made available for public release.

As you know, many of the Civil Rights Cold Cases include horrific crimes like lynching. These cases remain unsolved for a variety of reasons, including, at times, the lack of will on the part of law enforcement. We are now in a position where we have moved past much of the enmity of that era and professionals across the country are ready and willing to help solve these atrocities. We, as a nation, should do what we can to support them in this important endeavor. As Members of Congress, we owe it to our constituents to ensure that the American people know the full history of the Civil Rights Era, including information about Civil Rights Cold Cases.

We appreciate your steadfast support of this program in FY2021. In once again seeking these funds, we hope to continue to garner the same bipartisan support as was received in the passage of the law that created these programs and the appropriations that funded them. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee ensure NARA receives robust funding for these programs that will be used to help shed light on a dark chapter of our nation's history.

Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/

Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Member of Congress

/s/

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

/s/

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

/s/

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

/s/

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

/s/

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/

André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

/s/
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

/s/
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

/s/
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

/s/
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

/s/
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

/s/
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

/s/
Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress

/s/
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

/s/
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

/s/
Sean Casten
Member of Congress

/s/
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

/s/
Cori Bush
Member of Congress

/s/
Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

/s/
Marie Newman
Member of Congress

/s/
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress